

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (Cancelled)

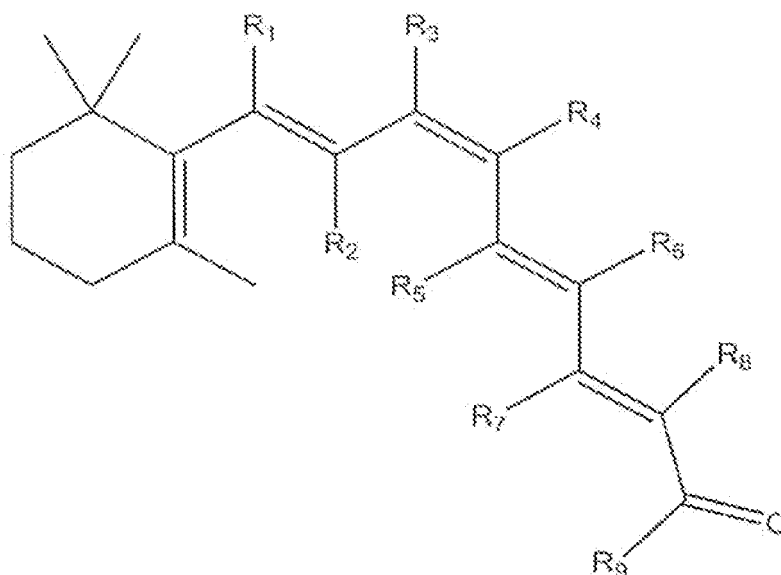
16. (Currently amended) A method of treating a human subject suffering loss of photoreceptor function, said method comprising:

administering an effective amount of ~~an opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ a 9-cis retinal derivative, wherein said derivative is a modification of the polyene chain but with retention of the polyene chain length and retention of the 9-cis bond, in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle to a human subject, with autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa due to expression of ~~expressing~~ a mutant opsin protein with a substitution of Proline 23 by Histidine (P23H mutant opsin protein), to treat loss of photoreceptor function in said subject.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is orally administered to the human subject ~~a vertebrate~~.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is locally administered to the human subject ~~a vertebrate~~.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ comprises a synthetic retinoid of formula I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, or XIII retinal derivative has the structure



wherein R1 to R9 are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, C1 to C3 alkyl, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl of C1 to C3, and/or branched alkyl.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is a 9-cis-7 ring-retinal or an 11-cis-7 ring-retinal~~ each of R₁ to R₈ is hydrogen and R₉ is C1 alkyl.

21-34. (canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is locally administered by eye drops.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is locally administered by intraocular injection.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is locally administered by periocular injection.

38-48. (canceled)

49. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject endogenously forms rhodopsin, from opsin and endogenous 11-cis-retinal, as a visual pigment.

50. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the subject endogenously forms rhodopsin, from opsin and endogenous 11-cis-retinal, as a visual pigment.

51. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising identifying the subject as expressing a mutant opsin protein with a substitution of Proline 23 by Histidine (P23H mutant opsin protein) before said administering.